

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 122350
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 MCE-00 DODE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /061 R

DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA:COL. HOLTZCLAW:KS
APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY
OSD:HBROWN
EUR/RPM:JAFROEBE
EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY
L/PM:MMATHESON

-----089258 130122Z /73

O P 122338Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122350

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MPOL, AWACS, IT

SUBJECT: AWACS -- ITALIAN PARTICIPATION

1. EMBASSY SHOULD DELIVER TO DEFENSE MINISTER RUFFINI
THE TEXTS OF THE FOLLOWING LETTERS FROM SECRETARY BROWN
CONCERNING ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN AWACS. BEGIN TEXT.

HONORABLE ATTILIO RUFFINI
MINISTER OF DEFENSE
ROME, ITALY

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 122350

I WAS VERY PLEASED TO LEARN THAT OUR DISCUSSION WITH
GENERAL MOIZO AND GENERAL D'AMBROSIO ON 8 AND 9 MAY
WERE SO USEFUL AND CORDIAL. YOUR DECISION TO SEEK
GREATER ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN NATO AWACS WAS A
COURAGEOUS ONE.

I AM ENCLOSING A SEPARATE LETTER STATING THE US POSITION

THAT THE LEVEL OF YOUR PROPOSED PARTICIPATION WILL NOT
BE ALLOWED TO INCREASE. THIS NEW PROPOSAL CAN BE THE
KEY TO MAINTAINING ALLIANCE MOMENTUM IN THE AWACS PROGRAM

AT THE DPC IN BRUSSELS. WE NEED AN AGREEMENT AT THAT
TIME TO PROCEED WITH THE NECESSARY RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT EFFORT PENDING NEGOTIATION OF THE CONTRACT
AND APPROVAL BY NATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE MULTILATERAL
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO COME TO WASHINGTON
FOR THE SUMMIT MEETING TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS
OF THE ALLIANCE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM.

IN CLOSING MAY I EXPRESS MY PROFOUND SYMPATHIES OVER
THE LOSS OF FORMER PREMIER MORO, AND MY HOPE THAT THIS
SAD CHAPTER WILL SERVE TO STRENGTHEN OUR RESISTANCE
TO THE COMMON THREAT OF TERRORISM.

SINCERELY,

HAROLD BROWN

END TEXT.

BEGIN TEXT:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 122350

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

THE PROPOSED FORMULA FOR ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN NATO
AWACS IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD TOWARD A TRUE
ALLIANCE PROGRAM. IF APPROVED BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT
AND BY NATO, THE UNITED STATES WOULD FULLY SUPPORT THIS
ARRANGEMENT AND WOULD NOT SEEK, NOR AGREE TO ANY NATO
PROPOSAL TO SEEK, ANY INCREASE IN THE AGREED SCHEDULE
OF PAYMENTS FOR ITALY, EXCEPT FOR THE EFFECTS OF
INFLATION. THE AGREED LIMIT WOULD BE:

----- (FY 1977 \$)

----- CY 78 79 80 81 82 83

ACQUISITION PROGRAM 0 4.6 5.0 5.6 5.0 5.0
(INCLUDING ITALIAN SHARE OF PROCUREMENT, GROUND
ENVIRONMENT, BASING AND ADMINISTRATION)

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT 0 .76 2.15 5.85 8.27 8.5
COSTS -----

WE EXPECT THAT IN 1983 ITALY COULD REEVALUATE ITS ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND THEREFORE WOULD INCREASE THE LEVEL OF PAYMENTS IN 1984 AND FOLLOWING YEARS BY \$10 TO \$15 MILLION ANNUALLY UNTIL THE TOTAL ITALIAN ACQUISITION SHARE OF \$120M, IN REAL TERMS, WAS MET.

IN ADDITION TO THE NATO AWACS PROGRAM, WE PLAN TO INCREASE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND ITALY IN OTHER AREAS OF ARMAMENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT. OUR MAJOR OBJECTIVES WOULD BE TO:

1) CONTRIBUTE TO GREATER ALLIANCE MILITARY STRENGTH THROUGH INCREASED STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 122350

OF EQUIPMENT, AND

2) INSURE THAT ITALY HAS A GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION EFFORT BY PARTICIPATING MORE FULLY IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL AS IN OTHER WORK SUCH AS REPAIR AND OVERHAUL ACTIVITIES.

AS A RESULT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH THE US HAS OFFERED AS PART OF THE NATO AWACS PROGRAM AND THE GENERAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ARMAMENTS COOPERATION WHICH WE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH ITALY, THE UNITED STATES WILL WAIVE ALL PRICE DIFFERENTIALS AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS THAT PREVENT FAIR COMPETITION FOR US MILITARY CONTRACTS, INSOFAR AS LEGALLY POSSIBLE, SUBJECT ONLY TO KEY US MOBILIZATION BASE REQUIREMENTS. THESE STEPS, TOGETHER WITH OUR JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORTS TO FACILITATE CONCRETE STEPS, SHOULD RESULT IN A MORE BALANCED EXCHANGE OF DEFENSE WORK BETWEEN ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE SOME CONCERNS ABOUT THE APPLICATION OF OUR ARMS TRANSFER POLICIES TO SALES OF ITALIAN LICENSED PRODUCTION OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

YOU SHOULD BE ASSURED THAT SUCH SALES WILL BE ALLOWED TO ALLIANCE COUNTRIES AND TO THIRD COUNTRIES TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH SALES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO U.S. FIRMS WITHIN OUR ARMS SALES POLICIES AND LEGAL RESTRICTIONS.

SINCERELY,

HAROLD BROWN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 122350

END TEXT.

2. FOR USNATO AND USNMR SHAPE: PLEASE PROTECT THESE
LETTERS UNTIL ITALIANS HAVE BROACHED THEIR AWACS
POSITION WITH SYG LUNS.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, AIR DEFENSE, ALLIANCE, POLICIES, TEXT, WARNING SYSTEMS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE122350
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COL. HOLTZCLAW:KS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780203-0109
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780562/aaaacarx.tel
Line Count: 182
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f124969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2701748
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AWACS -- ITALIAN PARTICIPATION
TAGS: MPOL, IT, US, NATO, (BROWN, HAROLD), (RUFFINI, ATTILLO)
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f124969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014